

TRIBUTE TO DR. IAN  
KIRKPATRICK

**HON. FRANK RIGGS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the distinguished career of Dr. Ian Kirkpatrick. On June 30, 1998, Dr. Kirkpatrick will be retiring from the Windsor Unified School District after 29 years of service to public education. During this time of service Dr. Kirkpatrick has had a tremendous positive impact as a social studies teacher, cross country, basketball and track coach, principal, and superintendent.

In 1993, Dr. Kirkpatrick took the reins as the first Superintendent of the newly formed Windsor Unified School District. As Superintendent, Dr. Kirkpatrick has seen the district grow from a K-8 district of 2,000 students to a district that now teaches 3,225 students, grades K-11. Through this growth there became a need for more school facilities. Working with the community, Dr. Kirkpatrick raised the money to build Windsor Middle School, a new kindergarten classroom, a multi-use building, and begin construction on the new Windsor High School which will be opening this Fall. Almost all of these projects were constructed while the State of California was in a budget crisis and many districts throughout the state were cutting back on classroom resources and facilities.

Civic duty appears to be something that has come natural to Dr. Kirkpatrick. Before entering the field of public education, he attended the Naval Officer Candidate School and became a Navy officer. He served four years as a destroyer officer and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. After being discharged from active duty, he remained in the Naval Reserve until 1989, when he retired with the rank of Commander.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kirkpatrick has been supported by his wife, Diane and their two children, Ian and Deanna. Diane, an administrator with the Tamalpais High School District will also be retiring at the end of the year. The two plan to travel and spend time pursuing their hobbies, snow skiing and wind surfing.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of Dr. Ian Kirkpatrick, as an educator and community leader, should be held up as a model for others. For it is hard working and dedicated individuals like him who make up the backbone of this nation. His leadership will be missed by many, both inside and outside the school district.

HONORING ALVIN COWANS

**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a recent article from The Washingtonian that highlights the achievements of a constituent of mine, Alvin (A.C.) J. Cowans. I have had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Cowans in my office and it was a pleasant surprise to see such a glowing article in the magazine. I am submitting a copy of the article for my colleagues to review.

Not only was Mr. Cowans an All-SEC football player at my alma mater, the University of Florida, but he has played football in the NFL and is now the CEO of McCoy Federal Credit Union in Orlando, Florida. He serves the credit union industry as the Vice Chair of the National Association of Federal Credit Union's (NAFCU) Board of Directors. The members of the McCoy FCU and of NAFCU are fortunate to have Mr. Cowans working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will take the time to read The Washingtonian article. It is a fine tribute to one of my constituents.

[From the Washingtonian, June 1998]

Alvin Cowans can reel off his high-school football honors—Northern Virginia Player of the Year, All Regional, All State—as though he won them yesterday.

He went on to play for the University of Florida, where he was All Southeastern Conference, then for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and finally for the Redskins. But after high school, it was never the same—never again was all the cheering just for him.

"I really thought I was all that," Cowans says of his Groveton days. Which meant he had a hard time adjusting to life at the University of Florida, where "everybody else was also player of this and All American that."

If he'd gone to Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School, the athletic powerhouse in whose district he technically lived, life might have been different. Sure, he would have played on a team that won more championships, a team where he would have been one of a constellation of stars. But then maybe, compared to all the athletes at T.C. Williams, he wouldn't have looked quite as appealing to all the colleges that came knocking.

It doesn't matter now. But Cowans—who also played basketball and ran track—is fairly sure that if he'd gone to the then-majority-black T.C. Williams, he'd never be as at ease as he is today, one of about two dozen African-Americans among the CEO's of the nation's 11,000 federal credit unions.

"Groveton was very diverse, but it had just a handful of black students," says Cowans, who went to all-black schools through sixth grade. "Being the big-shot athlete sort of shielded me from the racism, because they saw me more as an athlete than as a black male."

His star status helped him "learn how to adjust and cope with that environment and not carry a chip on my shoulder or be uncomfortable."

Cowans has lived in Orlando since 1978, when a former UF football player recruited him for a management-training program. He head McCoy Federal Credit Union, one of central Florida's largest.

His interest in finance goes back to high school, too.

"I always liked to have money, and I always worked to get it," says Cowans, who spent high-school summers hauling bricks and blocks and mud to build the Redskins' training camp at Dulles, where he got to practice some six years later.

"It felt great," he says of all the cheers from his family and friends when he played for the Redskins. It sounded a lot like Groveton.

SALUTING THE 1998 ELLIS ISLAND  
MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 9th four of our distinguished colleagues together with more than 130 other outstanding Americans were awarded the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a gala ceremony on Ellis Island. The ceremony and the medals are sponsored by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc. (NECO), the nation's largest ethnic organization, representing more than 5 million families and hundreds of organizations.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor have been awarded in each of the past twelve years to those Americans who have made outstanding contributions to our nation's identity, while preserving the distinct values and heritage of their ancestors. This year I am especially proud to note that Reps. GARY ACKERMAN (Eastern Europe), CAROLYN MALONEY (English, Irish/French), ROBERT MENEZES (Cuban), and PATSY MINK (Japanese) were among the awardees.

I am proud to be a Medal recipient, as is President Clinton and five other United States Presidents. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is aptly named, for the island is a symbol of the diversity of our nation's people—a people whose genius, culture, artistry and thought have joined to form a single mosaic of many cultures and ancestral backgrounds. It is from this diversity that the United States is still a beacon of hope for so many and the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to the one man who is responsible for the Ellis Island Medals of Honor and someone who has dedicated his life to developing and strengthening bonds between people of all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds, William Denis Fugazy. At this point in the RECORD, I wish to include the entire list of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients and congratulate each of them.

ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDS—1998  
MEDALISTS

Anthony S. Abbate, President & CEO, Interchange State Bank, Saddle Brook, NJ—Italian; Gary L. Ackerman, Congressman, United States House of Representatives, Bayside, NY—Eastern European; William H. Adkins, President & CEO, Palanker Chevrolet Inc. West Babylon, NY—African; Antigone Agris, Publisher, Hellenic Chronicle, Framingham, MA—Hellenic; Ace (Armando) Alaga, Publisher, Italian Tribune News, Newark, NJ—Italian; John B. Alfieri, Esq. Senior Partner, Alfieri, Frohman & Primoff, LLP, New York, NY—Italian; John A. Allison IV, Chairman & CEO, BB&T Corporation, Winston-Salem, NC—Scottish/Irish; John A. Amos, President & CEO, Halley's Comet Company, Califon, NJ—African; Ernie Anastos, News Anchor, UPN 9/WWOR-TV, Secaucus, NJ—Hellenic; Thomas V. Angott, Chairman, C.F. Burger Creamery, Detroit, MI—Italian; Michael S. Ansari, Chairman & CEO, MIC Industries, Inc., Reston, VA—Iranian; Norman R. Augustine, Chairman of the Board, retired, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Bethesda, MD—German; William J. Avery, Chairman & CEO, Crown, Cork & Seal Company, Inc., Philadelphia, PA—Irish/Welsch; Farhad Azima, Chairman, Aviation Leasing Group, Kansas City, MO—Persian;

and Brian M. Barefoot, Executive Vice President, Paine Webber Inc. New York, NY—English/German.

Archbishop Khajag Barasmian, Primate, Diocese of the American Church of Am., New York, NY—Armenian; George D. Behrakis, Judge, President & CEO, Muro Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Tewksbury, MA—Hellenic; Joseph W. Bellacosa, Judge, New York State Court of Appeals, Albany, NY—Italian; Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, PC, Boston, MA—Italian; Eric A. Behamou, President, CEO & Chairman, 3 Com Corporation, Santa Clara, CA—French; Michael Berry, Esq., Attorney, Berry, Francis, Seifman, Salamey & Harris, Dearborn, MI—Lebanese; Albert C. Bersticker, Chairman & CEO, Ferro Corporation, Cleveland, OH—German; Elias Betzios, President, Continental Food Products, Inc., Flushing, NY—Hellenic; Frank J. Branchini, President, & CEO, Group Health Incorporated, New York, NY—Irish/Italian; John G. Breen, Chairman & CEO, The Sherwin-Williams Company, Cleveland, OH—Scottish/Irish; and Duncan A. Bruce, Author & Community Leader, New York, NY—Stottish.

Michael G. Cantonis, President, Acme Sponge & Chamois Co., Inc., Tarpon Springs, FL—Hellenic; Louis J. Cappelli, Chairman, Sterling National Bank, New York, NY—Italian; Richard Conway Casey, United States District Court Judge, United States District Court, White Plains, NY—Irish; Robert B. Catell, Chairman, President & CEO, KeySpan Energy Company, Brooklyn, NY—Italian; William Cavanaugh III, President & CEO, Carolina Power & Light Co., Raleigh, NC—Irish; Jerry D. Choate, Chairman & CEO, Allstate Insurance, Northbrook, IL—English; Christopher Christodoulou, President, Creative Color Lithographers, Inc./Graphic Arts Laboratory/ELAS Travel, Garwood, NJ—Cypriot; Kenneth A. Ciongoli, President, Neurological Association of UT/NIAF, Burlington, VT—Italian; E. Virgil Conway, Chairman, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York, NY—Irish; Takey Crist, President and Medical Director; Honorary Consul, Crist Clinic for Women; Republic of Cyprus, Jacksonville, NC—Cypriot; and Karen Davis, President, Commonwealth Fund, New York, NY—Swiss/German.

Diane H. Dayson, Superintendent, Department of Interior—National Park Service, New York, NY—African; Theodore Deikel, Chairman & CEO, Fingerhut Companies, Inc., Minnetonka, MN—Russian; George J. Delaney, President, Summit Resources, Inc., Briarcliff Manor, NY—Irish; Gustave Diamond, United States District Judge, United States District Court, Pittsburgh, PA—Hellenic; Jim Donald, Chairman, President & CEO, Pathmark Stores Inc., Carteret, NJ—Irish; Lewis Robert Elias, MD, Cardiologist, Senior Member, South Florida Cardiology Associates, Bal Harbour, FL—Lebanese; Victor Elmaleh, Chairman, World-Wide Holdings Corporation, New York, NY—Moroccan; Pamela Fiori, Editor in Chief, Town and Country Magazine, New York, NY—Italian; Brian T. Gilson, President, Minnesota Diversified Industries, St. Paul, MN—Norwegian/German/Italian; Richard H. Gigrenti, Esq., Principal, KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, New York, NY—Italian; and Bernice Gottlieb, President, Hudson Shores Realtors, Irvington, NY—Austrian/Hungarian.

Charlie N. Hall, Sr., President, Local #108 R, W & D Store Union, Irvington, NJ—African; James F. Hardymon, Chairman & CEO, Textron, Inc., Providence, RI—English; Derek C. Hathaway, Chairman & CEO, Harsco, Camp Hill, PA—English; William Hetzler, President & Owner, Bill Hetzler Holding, Atlantic Beach Estates, NY—German; John A. Holy, President, Slovak American Publishing Co., Clifton, NJ—Slovak;

Vahak S. Hovnanian, Chairman & President, V.S. Hovnanian Group & Hovbith—Armenian; Darrell Edward Issa, President & CEO, Directed Electronics, Inc., Vista, CA—Lebanese; Robert M. Johnson, Chairman & CEO, Bowne & Co., Inc., New York, NY—Swedish/English; Mitchell J. Joseph, Chairman & CEO, The Joseph Company, Laguna Niguel, CA—Italian; Thomas Peter Kazas, President, Hometown Coffee Company, Pittsburgh, PA—Hellenic; John F. Keenan, US District Judge, U.S. District Court, New York, NY—French Canadian/Irish; Andrew Sokchu Kim, President, LISA Page/Codwell Communications Inc., Roslyn, NY—Korean; A. Eugene Kohn, President, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, New York, NY—European; Alexander R. Koproski, CEO, Al Koproski Realty, Stamford, CT—Polish; Haralambos S. Kostakopoulos, Ph.D., President & CEO, First Savings Bank of Little Falls, Little Falls, NJ—Hellenic; and Thomas C. Kyrus, President, Kyrus Enterprises, Naples, FL—Cypriot.

Vincent V. LaBruna, DDS, President, Vincent V. LaBruna DDS, PC, New York, NY—Italian; Lee Liu, Chairman & CEO, IES Industries Inc., Cedar Rapids, IA—Chinese; Dr. Pamela Loren, Chairman & CEO, Loren Communications Intl., Ltd., New York, NY—Argentinean/English; William Losapio, President, Gregory's Restaurant, White Plains, NY—Italian; Alan Barry Lubin, Executive Vice President, NYS United Teachers, Albany, NY—Russian; Leon Machiz, Chairman & CEO, Avnet Inc., Great Neck, NY—English/Irish/French; Carolyn B. Maloney, Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives, New York, NY—English/Irish/French; Joseph L. Mancino, Chairman, President & CEO, The Roslyn Savings Bank, Roslyn, NY—Italian; Frank G. Mancuso, Chairman & CEO, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., Santa Monica, CA—Italian; John Willard Marriott Jr., Chairman & CEO, Marriott International, Inc., Washington, DC—English; Anthony A. Massaro, Chairman & CEO, The Lincoln Electric Company, Cleveland, OH—Italian; Fernando Mateo, Founder & Chairman, Goods for Guns Foundation, New York, NY—Hispanic; and Joseph M. Mattone, Esq., Chairman & CEO, Mattone Group, Ltd., College Point, NY—Italian.

William Surles McArthur, Jr., Colonel, NASA, Houston, TX—Scottish; Linda Eastman McCartney, (posthumously) Photographer, Animal Activist, Writer, Singer, Musician, AZ, CA, UK; Michael R. McCoy, Executive Vice President & COO, Geotek Communications Inc., Montvale, NJ—Irish; Bryan N. McGuire, General Manager, "21" Club, New York, NY—Irish; Josie Anderson McMillian, President, New York Metro Area Postal Union, New York, NY—African; James R. Mellor, Former Chairman & CEO, General Dynamics, Falls Church, VA—English; Robert Menendez, Congressman, House of Representatives, Washington, DC—Cuban; Arthur L. Mercante, Deputy Commissioner, Town of Hempstead, Garden City, NY—Italian; Lee Miglin, (posthumously) Former Chairman, Miglin-Beitler Company, Chicago, IL—Lithuanian; Alan B. Miller, President & Chairman, Universal Health Service, Inc., King of Prussia, PA—Russian; Patsy T. Mink, Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC—Japanese; and Senator George Mitchell, Chairman, Peace Talks in Northern Ireland, Washington, DC—Lebanese/Irish.

Tita Scandalis Monti, President & Founder, Don Monti Memorial Research Foundation, Sands Point, NY—Hellenic; William D. Moses, President & CEO, Recovery Network, Santa Monica, CA—Syrian; Mary Murphy, Anchor and Correspondent, WPIX-TV New York, NY—Irish; Thomas J. Murphy, Chairman, NYS Dormitory Authority, Albany,

NY—Irish; John Francis, O'Brien, President & CEO, Allmerica Financial Corporation, Worcester, MA—Irish/Italian; Timothy Stuart O'Leary, USN, Director, United States Navy Office of Information, East, New York, NY—Irish/Croat; Harry J. Pappas, President & CEO, Pappas Telecasting Companies, Visalia, CA—Hellenic; Carl F. Pascarella, President & CEO, Visa, USA, San Francisco, CA—Italian; Nicholas Anthony Penachio, President, Nick Penachio Co., Inc., New York, NY—Italian; and James George Petheriotes, Co-Owner, Petheriotes Brothers Coffee Company, Houston, TX—Hellenic.

William G. Poist, President & CEO, Commonwealth Energy System, Cambridge, MA—German; Dith Pran, Photojournalist, The New York Times, Woodbridge, NJ—Cambodian; Leslie C. Quick, III, President, United States Clearing Corporation—Fleet Securities Inc., New York, NY—Irish; Bradford J. Race, Jr., Secretary to the Governor, State of New York, Albany, NY—Irish/English; John G. Rangos, Sr., USA Waste Services, Pittsburgh, PA—Hellenic; Michael T. Reddy, Chairman & CEO, EDS Global Securities Industry Group, New York, NY—Irish; Ronald K. Richey, Chairman, Torchmark Corporation, Birmingham, AL—Swedish/Scottish/Irish/German; P. Anthony Ridder, Chairman & CEO, Knight-Ridder, Miami, FL—German/French; John J. Rigas, Chairman, President & CEO, Adelpia Communications Corporation, Coudersport, PA—Hellenic; Eddie Robinson, Senior Advisor to the President for Institutional Advancement, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA—African; and Edward J. Robson, Chairman, Robson Communities, Sun Lakes, AZ—English.

Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, Ph.D., Chief of Surgery, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD—Eastern European; Robert J. Rotatori, Esq., Attorney, Gold, Rotatori & Schwartz Co., Cleveland, OH—Italian; Dr. John W. Ryan, Chancellor, State University of New York, Albany, NY—Irish; Philip Adeeb Salem, MD, Director of Cancer Research, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, TX—Lebanese; Joseph D. Sargent, CLU, President & CEO, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, New York, NY—Irish/English; George D. Schwab, Ph.D., President, National Committee on American Foreign Policy, New York, NY—Latvian; Steven Seagal, President, Seagal-Nasso Productions, Inc., Los Angeles, CA—French Canadian/Italian; Tosano J. Simonetti, Vice President of Security, MacAndrews & Forbes, New York, NY—Italian; Richard Sklar, United States Representative for United Nations Management, United States Mission to the United Nations, New York, NY—Russian/Hungarian; Orin R. Smith, Chairman & CEO, Engelhard Corporation, Iselin, NJ—English; and Philip J. Smith, President, The Shubert Organization, Inc., New York, NY—Irish.

William S. Stavropoulos, President & CEO, The DOW Chemical Company, Midland, MI—Hellenic; Michael R. Steed, Senior Vice President ULLICO, Inc., Washington, DC—Irish; Pergrouhi (Najarian) Svajian, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY—Armenian; Laszlo N. Vauber, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., Clinical Professor of Surgery, Chairman Emeritus of Surgery, Jefferson Memorial Hospital, Alexandria, VA—Hungarian; Nicholas Tsoucalas, Senior Judge, United States Court of International Trade, New York, NY—Hellenic; 1998 United States Olympic Women's Hockey Team, USA; and Vincent Viola, Owner & CEO, Pioneer Group, New York, NY—Italian.

Randi Weingarten, President, United Federation of Teachers, New York, NY—Russian/German; Melvyn I. Weiss, Esq., Senior Partner, Milberg, Weiss, Bershad, Hynes &

Lerach LLP, New York, NY—Russian/Hungarian; H. Daniel Wenstrup, President & CEO, CHEMCENTRAL Corporation, Bedford Park, IL—Danish; Siggi B. Wilzig, Chairman & CEO, The Trust Company of New Jersey, Jersey City, NJ—German/Prussian; Margaret W. Wong, Managing Partner, Margaret W. Wong & Associates Co., Cleveland, OH—Chinese; John B. Yasinsky, Chairman & CEO, GenCorp, Fairlawn, OH—Lithuanian; Zachariah P. Zachariah, MD, Director of Cardiology, Holy Cross Hospital, Fort Lauderdale, FL—Asian Indian; and Robert Thomas Zito, Senior Vice President of Communications, New York Stock Exchange, New York, NY—Italian.

#### HONORING RINGO'S SHOP'N SAVE

##### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Monarco, owner and operator of Ringo's Shop'n Save, for business excellence and commitment to public service. Mr. Monarco is a man of impeccable character who is constantly giving back to the community, and I want to acknowledge his great contribution to my colleagues in Congress.

Scott, with his family, attends school functions and charitable events for a number of organizations in the La Junta area. He is always willing to go the extra mile and selflessly contributes his time and knowledge to others. This generous attitude exudes throughout Scott Monarco's life from his family to his business.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor Mr. Monarco. I hold him up to the House, and to all Americans, as a shining example of the best of America's businesses. He exemplifies the industrious spirit, can-do attitude, and community involvement that made America great.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY Q. KEEFE

##### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an extraordinary journalist, Nancy Q. Keefe, who is retiring in July after 22 years with Gannett Suburban Newspapers. Ms. Keefe is being honored on June 18 by the American Jewish Committee Westchester Chapter with their Distinguished Community Relations Award for her work as a columnist and "community voice of conscience."

Nancy Q. Keefe was editorial page editor of the Gannett Suburban Newspapers from 1984–1989 and then became a columnist. She consistently wrote with unusual clarity and style about people, issues and events, often on topics that few others dared to tackle. During her stint as editorial page editor, she wrote editorials and columns favoring a program of transitional housing for homeless people. In appreciation, the WestHELP organization named its Mount Vernon housing complex, the first in Westchester County, for her.

As a Roman Catholic and member of an interfaith group, she traveled to Israel in the

spring of 1993 on a trip arranged through Project Interchange of the American Jewish Committee. She wrote about the experience for the newspapers.

She graduated from the College of New Rochelle in 1956 and received her master's degree from the Graduate School of Journalism in 1958. In 1981, the College of New Rochelle awarded her the Angela Merici Medal, its highest alumnae honor for service to college, church and community.

In 1991, Nancy Q. Keefe was named to the Westchester County/Avon Women's Hall of Fame, cited for being "the conscience of our community."

She was born in Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 20, 1934, the daughter of John Gorman Quirk and Ann O'Laughlin Quirk. She began her newspaper career at The Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield and then worked at the old World-Telegram & Sun in New York City.

She and her husband, Kevin Keefe, live in Larchmont, N.Y. They have three children and three grandchildren.

For her unfailing courage, commitment to the truth and dedication to improving the lives of all in our community, Nancy Q. Keefe deserves our heartfelt thanks and congratulations. We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement from Gannett, but hope that she will continue the writing that has informed, inspired and even incited us to action for so many years.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. CRAIG MEYER WINNER OF THE 1998 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP

##### HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Craig Meyer of Bella Vista, Arkansas for his winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1998 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. A senior at Bentonville High School, Mr. Meyer is already an active participant in our nation's democratic process—participating in the Political Science Club, the Speech and Debate Team, National Honor Society, and serving as the Co-Editor of Literary Magazine.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, which began 50 years ago, provides financial awards to students whose writing expresses the spirit of democratic principles. Mr. Meyer's entry exemplifies the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those who gave their lives for freedom's sake.

I congratulate Mr. Meyer on his thoughtful and moving essay. Mr. Speaker, I just might borrow it sometime!

I would also like to thank VFW Post 9063 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Bella Vista, Arkansas for sponsoring Mr. Meyer. This nation owes a debt of gratitude it can never repay to our veterans—those who served our country in times of crisis and who continue to serve our communities through programs such as this.

#### "MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

1997–98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION—ARKANSAS WINNER, CRAIG MEYER

It's the voice on the campaign trail, it's the voice on a soapbox in the employee wash-

room. It's the schoolteacher's voice educating the future. It's the reporter writing his morning column, it's the corporate Public Relations Ad executive writing his press release. It's the museum curator demonstrating Warhol, and the bag lady huddled over a heating grate. It's the smooth jazz sounding out, echoing out over the city skyline.

The voices of our democracy come together, they form a chorus, form a symphony. From the soft prayer of childhood, to the savage battlefield roar of D-Day, to a suburban "honey, I'm home!", to the shriek of a fire engine on the fourth of July, to "New and improved—available in stores everywhere!", to the hush after a ghetto gunshot. It's PT Barnum putting his head into a lion's mouth. It's Joe McCarthy hunting down the communists.

#### IT'S AMERICA, IT'S DEMOCRACY

The real beauty of it all is that I get to find my own voice. My role isn't mapped out for me, I'm not locked into a channel. Democracy allows a person to be a citizen and not be a slave. We can not only participate in our government, but we also have the freedom to do what we want to do, to be what we want to be. Our nation allows people to think for themselves—which carries with it responsibility, carries with it the ability to be right and to be wrong. It's all about people having the freedom to decide on their own voices, the freedom to pursue their own destiny—to succeed or to fail. Democracy doesn't reside in a dollar sign or in a bomb, it lives in us. It's not just an ideology or a political theory, it's a way of life.

How do I spell out both my future and the future of my country? How do I find my voice in our democracy? Through education. Through learning about other's voices—learning from those who have been there, learning from those who experienced history firsthand. Talking to teachers, professors, auto mechanics, veterans—it's learning as much as I can about as many things as I can. I need to learn about both the issues that face our nation, and the issues that face me as a person.

With all this in mind, my own responsibility is clear—It's up to me to find a voice. It's up to me to see all sides of an issue, to question myself constantly "am I really seeing the whole picture?" It's up to me to narrow and define my voice—to not only blend into the chorus of our democracy, but also be able to do an occasional solo. But let's face it, I need to be willing to vote, to serve jury duty, to read that newspaper, to pick up a gun or a musical instrument—I need to be willing to take a stand for my beliefs.

And this is our democracy—all the glory and the gaudy, the legends (both living and dead) and the truth. The artistic and the autistic, the commerce and the commercialism, the existentialism and the exit sign—this is our America, this our democracy. It runs red through our blood. It rings in our bones, rings in our ears, and it rings in our hearts. We are a part of it, and it's a part of us.

#### RECOGNIZING MS. ELEANOR KOPLOVITZ FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO DAVID L. SILVER YESHIVA ACADEMY AND THE HARRISBURG COMMUNITY

##### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Ms. Eleanor Koplovitz, who is being